

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 13-16, 18, 21-22 and 25 have been amended to correct various minor errors. Accordingly, the claim amendments are fully supported.

Claims 26-27 have been added. These claims depend from and include limitations originally found in claims 13 and 18. Accordingly, new claims 26 and 27 are fully supported by the specification.

Claims 6-8, 10-22 and 25-27 will now be pending.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 13 and 18 stand rejected as being vague and indefinite in reciting the term "optionally". Such claims have been amended to remove specific reference to the limitations following the term "optionally", although the claims still comprise the remaining limitations.

Claim 25 stands rejected for reciting the acronym "KGF-2". The claim is amended to define the term "KGF-2" using the term "keratinocyte growth factor-2".

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants acknowledge that the references cited in the Search Report have not been considered. Applicants are submitting under separate cover a listing of references complying with 37 CFR 1.98.

The present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

13. (Amended) A method comprising ~~growing host cells~~ culturing the host cell of Claim 12 in a suitable nutrient medium ~~and, optionally, isolating said variant of KGF-2 from said cells or said nutrient medium.~~

14. (Amended) The method for producing the variant of KGF-2 according to Claim 13, wherein said host cell is an E. coli cell.

15. (Amended) The method for producing the variant of KGF-2 according to Claim 13, wherein said host cells are cell is selected from a baculovirus cell, COS cell and or Chinese hamster ovary cell.

16. (Amended) A method comprising the step of isolating a variant of keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) from a host cell containing a polynucleotide of Claim 10 cultured under conditions allowing the expression of the variant of KGF-2 by said host cell.

18. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
 (a) culturing a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell containing a polynucleotide of Claim 10; and
 (b) maintaining said host cell under conditions allowing the expression of a variant of keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) by said host cell; and
 (c) ~~optionally isolating the variant of KGF-2 expressed by said host cell.~~

21. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~the a~~ variant of keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) produced isolated in accordance with the method of Claim 13-26 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

22. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~the a~~ variant of keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) produced-isolated in accordance with the method of Claim 18-27 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

25. (Amended) A variant of keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) selected from the group of amino acid sequences consisting of methionylated or non-methionylated NH₂-His-Val-Arg-Ser-Tyr-[Asn⁷¹-Ser²⁰⁸]-COOH.

26. The method of Claims 13, 14 or 15 further comprising isolating a variant of keratinocyte growth factor-2 (KGF-2) from said cultured cells or said nutrient medium.

27. The method of Claim 18, further comprising after step (b) the following step (c):

(c) isolating the variant of KGF-2 expressed by said host cell.